



HR0061

LRB101 05128 MST 50140 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The use of even a small number of nuclear weapons could have catastrophic human, environmental, health, and economic consequences globally; and

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WHEREAS, Approximately 14,000 nuclear weapons still exist in the world and pose an intolerable risk to humanity; and

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WHEREAS, The United States has over 6,000 nuclear weapons, which combined are more than 100 times more powerful than all the weapons used during World War II; and

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WHEREAS, The United States is currently planning to spend nearly \$2 trillion over the next 30 years rebuilding its entire nuclear weapons arsenal; this is a gross misuse of funds that could instead be devoted to improving security, health, and education; and

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WHEREAS, The United States maintains nearly 1,000 nuclear weapons on high alert so they are ready for launch within minutes of a presidential decision to do so, making them vulnerable to accidents, unauthorized use, cyber attacks, and miscalculations, thereby increasing the risk of nuclear use; and

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1           WHEREAS, The United States currently reserves the right to  
2 use nuclear weapons in response to non-nuclear attacks by  
3 Russia, China, or North Korea, nations that could respond by  
4 using their own nuclear weapons, resulting in a nuclear war  
5 that could have devastating consequences; and

6           WHEREAS, The sole purpose of U.S. nuclear weapons should be  
7 to deter a nuclear attack on the United States, its forces, and  
8 its allies; there is no reason for the United States to ever  
9 use nuclear weapons first; and

10           WHEREAS, The U.S. President has sole authority to order a  
11 nuclear attack without any consultation or input; leaving the  
12 decision to one individual increases the chance of a nuclear  
13 weapon being used; and

14           WHEREAS, A policy renouncing the first use of nuclear  
15 weapons would severely constrain the ability of the President  
16 to order a nuclear attack, allowing attacks only in response to  
17 a nuclear attack; and

18           WHEREAS, Americans and all people on the planet should have  
19 the right to live a life free from the threat of nuclear  
20 weapons; and

21           WHEREAS, The United States should immediately change its

1 policies, as well as actively pursue verifiable agreements with  
2 other nuclear-armed nations to reduce the number of nuclear  
3 weapons and eliminate them from the planet; therefore, be it

4       RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
5 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that,  
6 as an important first step, we call on the President of the  
7 United States to make it the policy of the U.S. that it will  
8 not start a nuclear war and therefore will not use nuclear  
9 weapons first, and we call on the United States Congress to  
10 pass legislation supporting this policy; and be it further

11       RESOLVED, That we call on Congress to not fund the  
12 development and production of additional U.S. nuclear weapons  
13 that can produce a relatively small nuclear explosion, making  
14 them suitable for rogue nuclear war-fighting and potentially  
15 lowering the threshold to using nuclear weapons first; and be  
16 it further

17       RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
18 delivered to the President of the United States, the Vice  
19 President of the United States, the U.S. Senate Majority  
20 Leader, the U.S. Senate Minority Leader, the U.S. Speaker of  
21 the House, the U.S. House of Representatives Minority Leader,  
22 and all members of the Illinois Congressional Delegation.